

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A Replacement Sheet "2/6" is provided as an appendix hereto containing an amended Figure 4. In the amended Figure 4, the elastic layer 7 and internal threads 9' have been appropriately identified therein consistent with the discussions of these elements contained in the specification (see, e.g., page 12, line 27 and page 13, line 4 of the originally-filed specification) and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the drawings do not add new subject matter.